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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITION of the DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1948.



TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last years report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

H. PATTINSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR (PART TIME)

V. J. BATEMAN, A.R.San.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1948)	...				5,660
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1948				}	1,630
Rateable Value	...	...	...		£20,464
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...		£85 : 5 : 4

During the course of 1948, no radical change took place in the industry of the district, which is chiefly connected with agricultural activities.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

Birth Rate per 1000 population	...	...	...	21.2
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Still Births.

Rate per 1000 total births	...	...	...	32.3
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Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population	...	...	9.9
Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births	...	...	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	25.0
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	26.5
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	I

RATES.

	Per 1000 Population.			Per 1000 live births
	Live Births	Still Births	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Ramsey U. D. C.	21.2	0.71	9.9	25.0
England & Wales	17.9	0.42	10.8	34.0

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

					M.	F.	Total
Causes of Death.					30	26	56
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...		...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping cough	...	...		—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...		...	—	2	2
7.	Other form of tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Ac. Polio. myel and polio enceph	...		...	—	—	—
12.	Ac. inf. encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. & oesph & uterus...			...	—	—	—
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...		...	1	3	4
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	—	2	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites...	...	...	...	2	2	4
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—
18.	Intra; cran vasc. lesions	...	...	...	4	5	9
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	6	9	15
20.	Other diseases of the circul. system	...		...	2	1	3
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	—	3
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	—	1
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
24.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...		...	1	—	1
25.	Diarrhœa under 2 years	...	...	...	1	—	1
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Puerperal and post abort. sepsis	...		...	—	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	—	—	—
32.	Con. mal; birth inj; infant dis	...		...	1	—	1
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—	1
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	1	—	1
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	6	2	8

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Prior to the inception of the National Health Service on the 5th July, 1948, there was no change from previous years in the provision of Health Services. Since the 5th July, services have been provided as follows :-

(a) Laboratory Facilities :

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) Ambulance Facilities :

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases, ambulances are provided by the Huntingdon County Council from their depot at Huntingdon. For non-emergency cases there is still an available ambulance stationed at Ramsey.

(c) Nursing in the Home :

Nursing in the home is carried out by three qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres :

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Wesleyan School-room on the 2nd and last Wednesday every month from 2—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :-

School Clinic
(Minor Ailment)

Ramsey Town C. P. School
3rd Thursday of the month
10—12 noon

Dental Clinic	The Wesleyan Schoolroom 2nd and last Wednesday of the month. 2—4 p.m.
Eyes	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, by Appointment
Tuberculosis	High Street, Old Fletton By Appointment.
Orthopædic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough Every Monday, 2.15 p.m. By Appointment.
Nose, Throat and Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appointment.
Venereal Diseases	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough Mixed Session—Wed., 4 - 6 p.m.
Women Only	Fridays — 10—12 noon. New cases and special treatment only, Mondays — 10—12 noon.
Men Only	Friday — 4—6 p.m. New cases and special treatment only, Mondays — 4—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) Hospitals :

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Disease at Huntingdon
- (2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, continue to carry out the general hospital services in the district.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity cases at the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The routine visits of inspection in connection with this work have been carried out as in past years,

HOUSING.

During the year the Council completed 19 permanent houses. Eight houses were completed by private enterprise. The standard of the new Council houses has been kept at a high level, but the number still required is considerable if all persons living in unfit houses are to be re-housed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The septic tank system which deals with sewage before it enters the river, remains in the same state as in former years. New houses with modern sanitation continue to increase with the result that the condition of the river is becoming worse every year, and during the summer months unpleasant odours are experienced by many people living in the vicinity. Palliative measures for this situation have been tried in the past with no success and it is more than ever necessary that a comprehensive disposal works is constructed in the near future to bring the drainage and sewerage of the town up to the modern standard which the Council are upholding in their housing programme.

WATER.

Samples from the water supply are taken regularly and forwarded to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for bacteriological analysis. Apart from temporary difficulties with the mains to new houses samples have been satisfactory in all respects.

There is still some insufficiency of supply in parts of Ramsey Forty Foot, Ramsey Heights and Ramsey St. Mary's.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SIR,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending
31st December, 1948.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action	...	...	26
Abated as a result of Statutory action	...	...	Nil
Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections	
Premises	12	17	
Overcrowding	3	3	
Foul ditches etc.	1	2	
Drains	6	6	
Animals	1	1	
Dampness	6	6	
Disinfestation	3	3	

Closets :

No. of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s			643
" " " " " Pail Closets			948
" " " " " Privy Vaults			37
No. of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	...	...	27
No. of Pail Closets newly constructed for old property			2

Cesspools :

No. of new cesspools provided	...	...	14
No. of cesspools emptied by L.S.A.	...	...	36
No. of cesspools emptied privately	...	...	1

Housing :

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose			16
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...		3
(b) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	9
Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices			
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...		4

Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... Nil	

Milk Supply :

No. of Registered Cowkeepers	...	4
No. of Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	...	12
No. of Retailers' Premises inspected	...	4

Disinfection :

Cases of Infectious Disease reported	...	12
No. of Inspections	... 12	
Rooms disinfected	... 12	
No. of Schools disinfected	... Nil	

Meat Inspection :

No. of slaughter houses on Register	...	6
No. of inspections	... 12	
No. of visits for the inspection of meat	... 16	

Water Supply :

Samples taken for analysis	...	49
Samples unsatisfactory	...	16
Wells closed	... Nil	
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	Nil
New Wells sunk	...	Nil
Ashbins: New provided	... 50	
Offensive Trades: No. Registered	... Nil	

Shops and Offices :

No. of Shops inspected	...	10
No. requiring additional heating	... Nil	
No. requiring additional ventilation	... Nil	
No. requiring additional sanitary conveniences	... Nil	

Factory and Workshop Act, 1937.

Factories	...	Total number on register including bakehouses	18
		No. in which nuisances abated	3
Bakehouses	...	No. on register	6
		Nuisances abated	Nil
Home work	...	No. of outworkers	Nil
Legal proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	...		Nil

V. J. BATEMAN, *Sanitary Inspector*

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The incidence of notifiable diseases showed a marked decrease due to the absence of any measles epidemic.

There was, however, a marked increase in the number of Whooping Cough cases notified.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population :-

Under 5 Years.

Between 5—15 Years

Number Immunised	Estimated Population	Number Immunised	Estimated Population
200	540	698	871

It is noticeable that while the level of protection among schoolchildren remains at a high level, the protection of the 0—5 age group leaves much to be desired.

There appears to be a growing tendency to postpone immunisation until the child is attending school. This practice saves parents' time but leaves the young child unprotected at a time when the risk of infection is considerable.

It should be borne in mind that despite the continuing decline of notifications in the Country, the case fatality rate has remained practically stationary for the last 7 years, and that the risk of the disease proving fatal is much greater in those who have not been immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	2	3	2	—	—	2	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the Compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. PATTINSON,

Medical Officer of Health

